

**From:** karawynn  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern:

Merely requiring Microsoft to stop dictating what OEMs load onto new machines, and similar minor measures as listed in the proposed final judgment, are like locking the barn after the horse has escaped -- too little too late. The real problem is now (and has been for some time) that neither OEMs nor end-users have any reasonable alternative to the Windows operating system. From the end-user's perspective, once you've bought your first computer, and invested money in hardware and software for one platform, you're locked in for life. The cost to scrap all of that and reinvest in an all-new hardware and software configuration is so prohibitive that for most people the option might as well not exist.

But if Microsoft were required to fully and publicly release the Windows APIs, it would give competitors a fighting chance to develop an alternative operating system that will work with PC hardware and Windows-compatible software. A full standardization and public release must be mandatory and enforced; there are too many loopholes in the minor disclosures required by the proposed final judgment, and Microsoft has already demonstrated that it can't be trusted to act in good faith.

This is not, incidentally, a categorical anti-Microsoft rant. I live in Seattle; fully half the people I know are either past or current employees of Microsoft, and therefore highly financially dependent upon the company's continued success -- and since the aftermath of 9/11 gutted Boeing, our local economy pretty much rises and falls on the fate of Microsoft.

But I don't actually believe that a requirement to release Windows APIs would hurt Microsoft in the long run. Intel hasn't failed just because AMD has emerged as a viable competitor. Both companies are going strong, and the consumer has won out, with rapid development of better processing hardware and falling prices. The Internet and software industries, and their enormous body of consumers, would benefit dramatically by a similar arrangement with regards to Microsoft.

Thanks for your time.

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